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Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's pick to oversee US spy agencies, clears Senate committee

By DAVID KLEPPER and FAR-NOUSH AMIRI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tulsi Gabbard's nomination to be President Donald Trump's director of national intelligence cleared a key Senate committee Tuesday despite concerns raised about her past comments sympathetic to Russia and a meeting with Syria's now-deposed leader. A former Democratic congresswoman, Gabbard is one of Trump's most divisive nominees, with lawmakers of both parties also pointing to her past support for government leaker Edward Snowden. But the Senate Intelligence Committee advanced her nomination in a closed-door 9-8 vote, with the committee's Democrats voting no.

Gabbard's nomination now heads to the full Senate for consideration. A vote has not been scheduled yet. Following a contentious confirmation hearing last week, where some Republican senators questioned Gabbard harshly, GOP support for her fell into place following a pressure campaign over



Tulsi Gabbard, President Donald Trump's choice to be the Director of National Intelligence, arrives to appear before the Senate Intelligence Committee for her confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

the weekend unleashed by Trump supporters and allies, including Elon Musk. Until three GOP members seen as swing votes announced their support, it wasn't clear her nomination would advance beyond the Intelligence Committee. Given strong Democratic opposition and thin Republican margins, Gabbard will need almost all GOP senators to vote yes to win confirmation to the top intelligence job. Though some Republicans have questioned Gabbard's

past views, they support her calls to overhaul the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which coordinates the work of 18 federal agencies focused on intelligence collection and analysis. GOP lawmakers have also taken aim at the office, saying it's grown too large and politicized. Senate Intelligence Chairman Tom Cotton, an Arkansas Republican, said Tuesday that he looked forward to working with Gabbard to "bring badly needed reforms"

to ODNI.

Gabbard is a lieutenant colonel in the National Guard who deployed twice to the Middle East and ran for president in 2020. She has no formal intelligence experience, however, and has never run a government agency or department.

Gabbard's past praise of Snowden drew particularly harsh questions during the nomination hearing. The former National Security Agency contractor fled to Russia after he was charged with revealing classified information about surveillance programs.

Gabbard said that while Snowden revealed important facts about surveillance programs she believes are unconstitutional, he violated rules about protecting classified secrets. "Edward Snowden broke the law," she said.

A 2017 visit with Syrian President Bashar Assad is another flash point. Assad was recently deposed following a brutal civil war in which he was accused of using chemical weapons. Following her visit, Gabbard faced criticism that she was legitimizing a dictator and then more questions when she said she was skeptical that Assad had used chemical weapons.

Gabbard defended her meeting with Assad, saying she used the opportunity to press the Syrian leader on his human rights record. She has also repeatedly echoed Russian propaganda used to justify the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine and in the past opposed a key U.S. surveillance program.

Democrats said Gabbard's response to questions about her past views did little to satisfy them. Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona said Gabbard lacks the judgment to take on a job that is so critical to the nation's security.

"Healthy skepticism is a good thing, but when someone consistently embraces sensational, but poorly supported claims while dismissing the thorough assessments of our intelligence community, it becomes dangerous," Kelly said in a statement explaining his vote. "But rather than ease my concerns, she confirmed them." □



Students walk past Sather Gate on the University of California at Berkeley campus in Berkeley, Calif., May 10, 2018.

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A lawsuit filed this week accuses the University of California of racial discrimination

in undergraduate admissions by favoring Black and Latino students over Asian American and white applicants.

Lawsuit accuses University of California of racial discrimination in admissions

A group called Students Against Racial Discrimination sued Monday in federal court, alleging the university system admits students with inferior academic credentials at the expense of better-qualified ones.

The complaint claims UC's admissions practices violate a state law approved by voters in 1996 that forbids considering race and other factors in public education, public employment and public contracting.

In addition, the filing alleges that the California campuses are violating the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment as well as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars federal funds recipients from discriminating based on race.

UC officials didn't immediately respond Tuesday to emails and phone calls seeking comment on the lawsuit. The lawsuit asks a judge to block the university system

with 10 campuses from asking about race in student applications and to appoint a court monitor to oversee admission decisions.

Asian American and white applicants are discriminated against because of their race, while Latino and Black students are "often placed at a significant academic disadvantage, and thus experience worse outcomes, because of the university's use of racial preferences," the complaint alleges. □

FBI agents sue over Justice Dept. effort to ID employees involved in Trump-related investigations

By **ERIC TUCKER and ALAN-NA DURKIN RICHER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI agents who participated in investigations related to President Donald Trump have sued over Justice Department efforts to develop a list of employees involved in those inquiries that they fear could be a precursor to mass firings. The class-action complaint, filed Tuesday in federal court in Washington, seeks an immediate halt to the Justice Department's plans to compile a list of investigators who participated in probes of the Jan. 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol as well as Trump's hoarding of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

The suit marks an escalation in a high-stake dispute that burst into public view on Friday with revelations that the Justice Department had demanded from the FBI the names, offices and titles of all employees involved in Jan. 6 investigations so that officials could evaluate whether any personnel action was merited. Thousands of FBI employees were also asked over the weekend to fill out an in-depth questionnaire about their participation in those probes, a step they worry could lead to termination.

The scrutiny of career agents is highly unusual given that rank-and-file FBI agents do not select the cases they are assigned to work on, do not historically switch positions or receive any sort of discipline because of their participation in matters seen as politically sensitive cases and especially because there's been no evidence any FBI agents or lawyers who investigated or prosecuted the cases engaged in misconduct.

But Trump, dating back to his first term as president, has long been furious at the FBI and Justice Department and sought to bend federal law enforcement to his will. He was inves-



The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters is seen in Washington, Dec. 7, 2024. Associated Press

tigated as president by agents examining potential ties between his 2016 campaign and Russia, and then after leaving the White House, faced new criminal inquiries into his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and his retention of top-secret documents. His efforts to overturn election results and his retention of those documents both resulted in indictments that were dismissed after he won the presidency in November.

The agents who brought Tuesday's lawsuit are not identified by name and are instead referred to as anonymous "John and Jane Does." They say they were told on Sunday to either fill out surveys about their involvement in the Jan. 6 or Mar-a-Lago investigation or that their supervisors would do it for them. The responses would be "forwarded to upper management," the lawsuit says.

"Plaintiffs assert that the purpose for this list is to identify agents to be terminated or to suffer other adverse employment action. Plaintiffs reasonably fear that all or parts of this list might be published by allies of President Trump, thus placing themselves and their families in immediate danger of retribution

by the now pardoned and at-large Jan. 6 convicted felons," the complaint said. The lawsuit notes that Trump on the campaign trail "repeatedly stated that he would personify 'the vengeance' or 'the retribution,' for those whom he called 'political hostages,' for their actions during the Jan. 6 attack." The agents contend "the very act of compiling lists of persons who worked on matters that upset Donald Trump is retaliatory in nature, intended to intimidate FBI agents and other personnel and to discourage them from reporting any future malfeasance and by Donald Trump and his agents." □

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Designs unveiled for replacement of Baltimore bridge almost a year after deadly collapse

By LEA SKENE

Associated Press

SPARROWS POINT, Md. (AP)

— Almost a year after the deadly collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, Maryland officials on Tuesday unveiled their designs for its replacement, which will be taller and better protected against ship strikes.

Construction of the state's first cable-stayed bridge could be completed in 2028 and cost upwards of \$1.7 billion.

With its graceful outline and delicate design, officials said the new bridge will modernize Baltimore's skyline, becoming a symbol of resilience, progress and economic growth. The design features two towers with cables radiating down to the deck.

"This is a great day for the state of Maryland," Gov. Wes Moore said at a news conference late Tuesday morning. "But it's not lost on me that today's triumph was born out of tragedy."

The original Key Bridge, a 1.6-mile (2.6-kilometer) steel span at the mouth of Baltimore's harbor, took five years to construct and



This image provided by Office of the Governor of Maryland shows renderings of replacement of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge that was presented during a news conference Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025 in Sparrows Point, Md.

Associated Press

opened to traffic in 1977. It connected various port-oriented industrial communities around Baltimore and allowed drivers to easily bypass downtown.

The bridge was destroyed when a massive container ship lost power and slammed into one of its supporting columns. The March 26 collapse killed six construction workers who were filling potholes when the structure crumbled beneath them. Baltimore's

port was closed for months after the collapse, and increased traffic congestion remains a problem for drivers across the region.

Officials quickly promised to rebuild the bridge a longstanding Baltimore landmark and vital piece of transportation infrastructure. Demolition of the remaining pieces will take place this spring, with construction of its replacement to follow, officials said Tuesday. They held Tuesday's

news conference at Trade-point Atlantic, a shipping hub in the Port of Baltimore that played a major role in cleanup and recovery efforts following the collapse. The facility is revitalizing the site of a former Bethlehem Steel plant just northeast of Baltimore as maritime shipping continues to fuel the regional economy.

"Maryland is a bridge between America and the rest of the world. We get cars from Michigan out to

market. We bring sugars and spices to Louisiana. We haul farm equipment from the East Coast deep into the heartland," Moore said. "Commerce and trade are the bedrock of our state, and we will continue to make investments that honor our tradition."

In August, the state awarded a \$73 million contract for the first phase of the rebuild to Kiewit Infrastructure, a major construction and engineering firm.

Officials said the project would advance in two phases, with the first focusing on the design work and other necessary steps before construction begins. Moore promised to "employ many Marylanders" throughout the process.

Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul Wiedefeld said the design will include the latest in pier protection technology, which has become increasingly important as ships keep getting bigger and carrying more cargo. The bridge will also be taller to provide more clearance. He said the plans were developed with the project's cost and construction timeline in mind. □

First military flight to send migrants to Guantanamo Bay is set to depart, official says

By TARA COPP and LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first U.S. military flight to de-

port migrants from the United States to Guantanamo Bay was set to depart Tuesday, a U.S. official said. It is the first step in what is ex-



In this April 17, 2019, photo, reviewed by U.S. military officials, the control tower is seen through the razor wire inside the Camp VI detention facility in Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba.

Associated Press

pected to be a surge in the number of migrants held at the Navy base in Cuba, which for decades was primarily used to detain foreigners associated with the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

President Donald Trump has eyed the facility as a holding center and said it has the capacity to hold as many as 30,000.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who was assigned to Guantanamo Bay when he was on active duty, has called it a "perfect place" to house migrants. Additional U.S. troops have arrived at the facility in the past few days to help prepare it.

Amy Fischer, Director of the Refugee and Migrant Rights Program at Amnesty

International USA decried the use of Guantanamo to house the migrants.

"Sending immigrants to Guantanamo is a profoundly cruel, costly move. It will cut people off from lawyers, family and support systems, throwing them into a black hole so the U.S. government can continue to violate their human rights out of sight. Shut Gitmo down now and forever!" Fischer said in a statement. In addition, the U.S. flew Indian migrants back to India on Monday, and that flight was still in progress as of midday Tuesday, the U.S. official said. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public.

There had previously been

seven deportation flights, to Ecuador, Guam, Honduras and Peru. In addition, Colombian officials flew to the U.S. and took two flights of migrants back to their country.

There are approximately 300 service members supporting the holding operations at Guantanamo Bay, and the numbers will fluctuate based on the requirements of the Department of Homeland Security, which is the lead federal agency.

There are more than 725,000 immigrants from India living in the U.S. without authorization, the third most of any country after Mexico and El Salvador, according to the Pew Research Center. □

About 10 killed at adult education center in what officials say is Sweden's worst mass shooting

By **STEFANIE DAZIO**
Associated Press

About 10 people, including the gunman, were killed on Tuesday at an adult education center in what Sweden's prime minister called the country's worst mass shooting. But a final death toll, a conclusive number of wounded and a motive hadn't yet been determined hours later.

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson gave a news conference in the aftermath of the tragedy, which happened on the outskirts of Örebro. The city is located about 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Stockholm.

The school, called Campus Risbergska, serves students over age 20, according to its website. Primary and upper secondary school courses are offered, as well as Swedish classes for immigrants, vocational training and programs for people with intellectual disabilities. "Today, we have witnessed brutal, deadly violence against completely innocent people," Kristersson told reporters in Stockholm. "This is the worst mass shooting in Swedish history. Many questions remain unanswered, and I cannot provide those answers either.



Emergency services at the scene of an incident at Risbergska School, in Örebro, Sweden, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025.

"But the time will come when we will know what happened, how it could occur, and what motives may have been behind it. Let us not speculate," he said. Gun violence at schools is very rare in Sweden. But there have been several incidents in recent years in which people were wounded or killed with other weapons such as knives or axes.

Justice Minister Gunnar Strömmer called the shooting "an event that shakes our entire society to its core." While Swedes read about such violence in other places, Strömmer said that the country previously felt it wouldn't happen there. Other tragedies in Swedish schools weren't to the extent of Tuesday's attack, he said, calling it "indescribably sad" for the com-

munity. The shooting also sent shockwaves through Europe, with officials in Brussels expressing their outrage at the carnage. "What happened today in Örebro is truly horrifying," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen wrote on social media. "Such violence and terror have no place in our societies least of all in schools. In this dark hour,

we stand with the people of Sweden."

The damage at the crime scene was so extensive that investigators were unable to be more definitive about the number of fatalities, said Roberto Eid Forest, head of the local police.

Police said that the death toll could rise. Eid Forest told reporters that the suspected gunman was among those killed. Police believe the perpetrator acted alone, and he wasn't previously known to police, officials said.

Authorities said that there were no suspected connections to terrorism at this point, but police didn't provide a motive.

"Of course, we all want to understand why this happened, what occurred, and what motives the perpetrator may have had," Kristersson said. "We will have to wait for those answers in due time, the picture will become clearer." Police raided the suspect's home after Tuesday's shooting, but it wasn't immediately clear what they found. Eid Forest said there were no warning signs before the attack. Authorities were working to identify the deceased. □

Associated Press

As hundreds of quakes rattle Greek islands, a few brave tourists have Santorini to themselves

By **DEREK GATOPOULOS**
Associated Press
SANTORINI, Greece (AP)

— The hundreds of earthquakes that have rattled Greek islands on the Aegean Sea are a "seismic swarm" and could continue for weeks before eventually diminishing, the Santorini mayor told The Associated Press on Tuesday pausing to chuckle as new tremors shook items on his desk. "This phenomenon may play out with small quakes or a single, slightly stronger one, followed by gradual subsidence," said Mayor Nikos Zorzos, adding he was cautiously optimistic after speaking to seismologists who described

the swarm as a series of tremors of similar magnitude occurring in clusters. Thousands of residents and seasonal workers have left the Cycladic Islands as quakes up to magnitude 5 have been recorded in the volcanic region since Friday. Ferry and commercial flight operators have added services to accommodate departures. More Greek islands closed schools Tuesday.

A handful of hardy tourists enjoyed having Santorini's stunning views to themselves.

Santorini earlier canceled public events, restricted travel to the island and banned construction

work in certain areas. The quakes have caused cracks in some older buildings, but no injuries have been reported.

Efthimios Lekkas, head of the state-run Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization, said the epicenter of the earthquakes in the Aegean was moving northward away from Santorini, and emphasized there was no connection to the area's dormant volcanoes.

"This may last several days or several weeks. We are not able to predict the evolution of the sequence in time," Lekkas told state-run television.

In Santorini's main town,

Fira, the narrow, white-washed streets along the island's clifftops were deserted a rare sight even

in the off-season except for small pockets of tour groups, many from Asian countries. □



A man walks on an empty street in the town of Oia on the earthquake-struck island of Santorini, Greece, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

Modi's ruling party looks to topple corruption crusader in Delhi poll with graft allegations

By ASHOK SHARMA and SHEIKH SAALIQ
Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The resurgent Hindu nationalist party of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is eyeing a state legislature election in Delhi where it is looking to unseat the governing movement which has led the Indian capital for over a decade but has recently been embroiled in graft allegations.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, which failed to secure a majority of its own in last year's national election but formed the government with coalition partners, has gained some lost ground by winning two state elections in northern Haryana and western Maharashtra states. It is up against the Aam Aadmi Party, or AAP, led by Arvind Kejriwal, that runs Delhi and has built a huge support base on the back of its popular welfare policies.

Delhi, a city of more than 20 million people, is a federal territory which Modi's party has not been able to win for over 27 years, despite having a sizeable support base in the capital. The polls open on Wednesday, with results due on Saturday.

Both Modi and Kejriwal have offered to revamp government schools, free health services and electricity, and a monthly stipend of over 2,000 rupees (\$25) to poor women.



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal, catches a garland during a road show while campaigning for Delhi state election in New Delhi, India, Monday, Feb. 3, 2025.

Associated Press

Modi's party, in particular, is hoping to better its tally from the previous election after last week's budget that slashed income tax on the salaried middle class, one of its key vote block. Kejriwal's party won 62 out of 70 seats in the last election, held in 2020.

"Publicity wise, the BJP seems ahead of the AAP because it has more significant resources," said Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a political analyst, who added that it will be difficult for the BJP to dislodge the AAP because of its popularity among voters.

India's main opposition Congress party is also in the

Delhi race, but many poll experts believe it has run a lackluster campaign and is expected to fare poorly. Claiming himself to be an anti-corruption crusader, Kejriwal is Delhi's former top elected official and a fierce critic of Modi. He formed the AAP in 2012 after tapping into public anger against the then Congress party government over a series of corruption scandals. His pro-poor policies have focused on fixing state-run schools and providing cheap electricity, free health care and bus transport for women. Raids, arrests, and corruption investigations

Kejriwal was, however, arrested last year along with two key leaders of his party ahead of national elections on charges of receiving bribes from a liquor distributor. The accusations have been consistently denied as part of an alleged political conspiracy. The Supreme Court allowed the release of Kejriwal and other ministers on bail. Kejriwal later relinquished the chief minister's post to his most senior party leader, Atishi, and said he would submit himself to the court of public opinion. Opposition parties widely condemned Kejriwal's arrest, accusing the Modi's

government of misusing federal investigation agencies to harass and weaken political opponents, and pointed to several raids, arrests, and corruption investigations of key opposition figures in the months before the national election.

Past voting pattern in the capital shows the distinction voter have made between national and state legislature elections. Since Modi came to power in 2014, his party has often dominated both polls. But in Delhi people have voted differently for the AAP in state election and the BJP in national polls.

During election campaigning, Modi's party reminded voters of graft allegations against Kejriwal, hoping the incumbent party's corruption allegations will outweigh its popular welfare programs.

Allegations 'are false'

The BJP was voted out of power in Delhi in 1998 by the Congress party, which ran the government for 15 years. In the 2015 elections, AAP won a landslide victory by capturing 67 of 70 seats.

Kejriwal's AAP has focused on economic development issues, like health care and education in poll rallies. He has avoided talking about the corruption allegations against him, instead asking voters to reward the party for its track record of delivering better services. □

El Salvador joins U.N.-backed mission on the ground in Haiti to combat gang violence



People displaced by armed gang attacks take refuge at the town hall of the Kenscoff neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Feb. 3, 2025.

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A contingent from El Salvador arrived in Haiti on Tuesday to bolster a U.N. backed mission led by Kenyan police to help fight gangs that killed thousands of people last year and control much of the capital.

The 70 personnel will provide expertise in air support, which Kenyan officials said will be critical for medical evacuations. The Salvadoreans are the latest to join the mission in recent months.

Additional police officers from Kenya were deployed last month for a total of more than 600 now in Haiti. They have been joined by police, soldiers and other officials from countries including Jamaica

and Guatemala.

Gang violence keeps surging across Port-au-Prince and beyond, with gunmen in recent days killing at least 40 people in an upscale community.

The U.S. and other countries have warned that the Kenya-led mission lacks funding and personnel as they push to transform it into a U.N.-peacekeeping mission.

More than 5,600 people were reported killed last year across Haiti and more than 2,200 others were injured.

Gang violence has left more than one million people homeless in recent years, according to the U.N. □

Infini Reopens: A Story of Resilience, Gratitude, and Renewal

After several challenging days of recovery following the severe flooding that impacted our operations, Infini by Urvin Croes is pleased to announce that we are fully open once again.

Seeing our kitchen flooded was a moment of great concern for our entire team. However, thanks to the unwavering dedication of our staff, the support of our families, friends, suppliers, and the encouraging messages from our community, we found the strength to rebuild, return stronger than ever, and do so in record time.

A Safer and More Resilient Infini

In response to this unprecedented challenge, we have implemented significant measures to ensure the safety and integrity of our restaurant moving forward. New drainage systems have been installed to effectively manage any potential future flooding, protecting our space from similar incidents. We have also reinforced our infrastructure, including repairs to



the front windows and an updated inspection protocol for critical equipment, creating a safer environment for our guests and staff alike.

These efforts are part of our unwavering commitment to excellence—not just in culinary artistry, but in the overall experience and security we provide to everyone who steps into Infini.

A New Chapter Begins

This experience has reminded us of the power of unity and resilience. We are filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who supported us through

this journey. We are thrilled to welcome you back to **Infini** with our new **Menu 12**, which our team has worked tirelessly to create. This exciting menu celebrates the art of gastronomy and the rich culinary heritage of Aruba and the Caribbean, all in partnership with our valued local suppliers.

However, we must note that due to the damage sustained, some of our equipment is still out of operation. This temporarily limits our ability to accommodate dietary restrictions, allergies, or preferences with the level of care we usually provide. We will inform you as soon as we are able to offer vegan options or other dietary accommodations once again. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and deeply appreciate your understanding as we continue to improve our operations.



Reserve Your Experience Today

We are open and ready to welcome you back to rediscover the limitless possibilities of fine dining. Book your table now and be part of this exciting new chapter:

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ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Nila and John Crouch with Nancy and George Bascom of Kentucky, USA.

They wrote to us saying: "We have visited Aruba more than 10 times with friends. It's peaceful beauty and gorgeous beaches welcome us back annually; not to mention the friendly locals who have become like family. ThankS for your hospitality!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐

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Cocktails with a Story: Caya House Brings a Unique Flavor Experience to Aruba

This season, Caya House invites guests to discover a cocktail menu that blends unique flavors from Latin America and the Caribbean into every drink. Under the direction of mixologist David Posada, each cocktail at Caya House tells a story, designed to take guests on a sensory journey that captures the vibrant essence of the region through every ingredient.

“At Caya, we believe cocktails are more than just drinks. They’re an opportunity to experience the distinctive flavors and aromas of our lands,” says David Posada, mixologist. Each cocktail is crafted with precision, combining modern and traditional techniques with exotic fruits, spices, and artisanal spirits.

Among the menu favorites are:

- **Warawara:** A refreshing mix of Caravella orancello, Sloe gin, pumpkin spice, and banana syrup, served over spear ice. This cocktail evokes the essence of autumn in the tropics.



- **Tu Corazon:** A standout drink with açai-infused cachaca and a hint of raw sugar, topped with a crisp slice of red beet for a unique, earthy finish.
- **Un Recuerdo:** A bold fusion of mezcal with tree tomato, butter infused with parmesan and shiitake, green tea cordial, and green chartreuse. Perfect for those looking for a robust, one-of-a-kind experience.



Caya House also features its signature **Lulada**, made with Flor de Caña rum infused with lulo, condensed milk, and lime leather—a perfect balance of sweetness and freshness for those seeking a tropical twist.

These cocktails are part of the “Caya Experience,” with a wider variety of options for guests to explore, notes David, highlighting



the creativity behind each one. With this unique offering, Caya House continues to stand out as an iconic destination for those in search of authentic Caribbean flavors in **Aruba**.

Caya House invites alike to enjoy this innovative cocktail menu in the heart of Palm Beach, Aruba. Each drink is a celebration of Latin-Caribbean culture and flavor!

Papiamentu words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamentu above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamentu you may encounter is “Bon bini.” Bon bini

in Papiamentu means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamentu word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say “hello” in Papiamentu. At least, not officially. We often just use the English “hello” or “hey”, or Dutch “hallo” to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with “con bay?” or “con ta?” Con bay is a shortened version of “con ta bay?”, which essentially means “how are you?” The word “con” in Papiamentu means “how?” and is pronounced with a rounder “o” sounds, like in the English word “cone”. “Ta bay” refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we

use the word “ayo” (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use “te oro”, which means “see you later”.

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamentu is no different. Since Papiamentu is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. **Bon dia** is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word “bon” means “good”, and while “dia” does not directly mean “morning” in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

2. **Bon tardi.** In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use “bon tardi” to greet people, which means “good afternoon”. “Tardi” actually comes from the word “atardi”, which directly translates to “afternoon”. However, the shortened “tardi” is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

3. **Bon nochi.** You guessed it, “bon nochi” means “good night”. Just like “tardi”, “nochi” is actually the shortened version of the word “anochi”.

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamentu. Just like Spanish, our yeses are “si” and our no’s

are “no”. Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say “se”, which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is “danki”, which means literally “thank you”. “Danki” is derived from the Dutch word “bedankt”. Though we don’t really have a translation for “I appreciate it” in English, we do use “masha danki” to convey the message. “Masha” means “a lot” or “very”, so “masha danki” means “thank you very much”.

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Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Fake news circulating using Aruba Today's image

(Oranjestad)—We at Aruba Today have been made aware recently about a scammer that has been using Aruba Today's image to propagate fake news on Facebook.

In this post, titled "Ursell Arends didn't know the microphone was on we say goodbye to him forever", the user Xenia Flores used Aruba Today's logo and website layout, accompanied with a photo shopped picture of minister Ursell Arends in handcuffs. We strongly reject this post as it did not come from our website—it is fabricated. Aruba Today never posted an article with the headline as shown in the picture, and we strongly condemn this unauthorized use of our logo and the impersonation of our newspaper.

All news that Aruba Today posts on Facebook comes directly from our official Facebook page, Aruba Today News. We ask of our readers to be careful to not click on these types of phishing posts on Facebook or anywhere else, as they can contain malware. □



Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.



One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for

on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find



a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



“Whispers of the Sand: Exploring our Duinen”

Episode 289 - CCLXXXIX

The narrative shared through Etnia Nativa emphasizes the importance of reclaiming and recognizing the island's cultural roots and heritage, which have often been overshadowed by colonial history. The platform actively engages in promoting the value of rediscovering native traditions, history and identity, while highlighting the importance of moving beyond colonial influences or submissive behavior.

In this episode we will share a little about some areas of Aruba, known locally as “duinen” or dunes in English. This word came to the English language from the French language, which in turn comes from the Middle Age Dutch dūne and is today known as “duin/duinen” in Dutch.

Now a dune is a landform, a large mass of wind-blown sand. Dunes are common in deserted environments and near beaches. All of Aruba's dune areas are protected by law which prohibits motor vehicles from riding on them, like those in California, behind Hudishibana Lighthouse. We should thank our parrot fishes for their contribution, for those who nibble on and feed from corals and spit out the crusher calcium as sand, which in its turn will eventually be picked up by the wind and accumulates all behind the beaches forming these clear white dunes.

Some coastal areas have one or more sets of dunes running parallel to the shoreline directly inland from the beach. The dunes are important in protecting the land against potential ravages by storm waves from the sea. Although the most widely distributed dunes are those associated with coastal regions. The largest complexes of dunes are found inland in dry regions and deserts, associated with ancient lakes or sea beds.

Dunes are made of sand-sized particles, and may consist of quartz, calcium carbonate or gypsum. The upwind/upstream/up current side of the dune is called the “stoss side”. The down flow side is called the “lee side”. Sand is pushed or bounces up the cross side, and slides down the lee side. The side of a dune that the sand has slid down is called a slip face.



As a dune forms, plant succession occurs. The conditions on an embryo dune are harsh, with salt spray from the sea carried by strong winds. The dune is well drained and often dry, and composed of calcium carbonate from coral and seashells. Rotting seaweed, brought in by storm waves, adds nutrients to allow pioneer species to colonize the dunes.

In Aruba, some of these pioneer species are A- “Banana di rif”, *Sesuvium portulacastrum* is a sprawling perennial herb in the family Aizoaceae that grows in sandy clay in coastal and mangrove areas, coastal limestone and sandstone, tidal flats and salt marshes. It is native to Africa, Asia, Australia, Hawai'i, North and South America, and has naturalized in many places where it is not native.

B-“Yerba marga” or “Tora”, *Strumpfia maritima* has a strong scent is found all around the coast.

C-“Cocorobano”, *Tournefortia gnaphalodes* and also known as “sea lavender” is a species of flowering plant in the family Boraginaceae. It is native to Florida, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Bermuda, northeastern Colombia, and Venezuela. A semi-succulent evergreen shrub reaching 5 ft., it is typically found in coastal areas. Occasionally cultivated as an ornamental, it is often used for dune stabilization.

These plants are well adapted to the harsh conditions of the dunes, the aridity of the soil, the mobility of the loose sandy substrate, the low nutrients and the salinity. Few species survive in these extreme conditions, but these habitats should not be underestimated for this reason.

As we move away from the sea, the intensity of the wind, the saline spray and the mobility of the substrate are reduced. This makes the environmen-

tal conditions less extreme, which is used by a greater number of species. The plant communities in the dunes are considered halophytes, that is, with vegetation that lives in soils with a high content of soluble salts. The predominant fauna of the coastal dunes are insects such as bees, wasps and ants, beetles, flies, spiders, seabirds and also lizards.□



If you liked native stories and are interested in diving deeper into learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. Since 1994, Etnia Nativa, which means “native ethnicity,” has been a trendsetting entity and has been a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others; every week, this newspaper shares its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls to the bone. WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianaativa03@gmail.com.

"Turning the Tide" Project focuses on mangrove and coral reef restoration to preserve nature and the environment

Recently, the Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), in collaboration with local partners Scubble-Bubbles Foundation, the University of Aruba, and international partner Wageningen University & Research, launched a documentary about the Turning the Tide project. This project started more than a year and a half ago, and René Henkens of Wageningen University & Research shared details with Aruba Today about how the project began, its goals, and the results achieved so far.

Project Background and Objectives

Henkens explained that preparations for the project began in 2022. Recognizing that little research and restoration efforts were being conducted on nature conservation, the project was launched when the Resenbit initiative provided substantial funding from the European Union (EU). The entire project focuses on the restoration of mangroves and coral reefs.

For the mangroves, one of the biggest challenges is sedimentation. Henkens explained that during heavy rainfall, large amounts of sediment flow down from hills into the mangrove system, causing it to turn into land, which leads to the loss of mangroves.

To restore the mangroves, sediment traps were installed at the end of Rooi Taki, Rooi Bringamosa, and Rooi Lamunchi. These traps, with a capacity of 500 cubic meters, prevent sediment from flowing into the mangrove areas.

In addition to the sediment traps, mangrove channels were created in Spaans Lagoen to restore tidal movement. Currently, tidal flow is limited due to sediment blockage. The goal is to restore fresh water movement to help mangrove trees grow again once the channels are fully established.

Once this is achieved, the nursery function of the mangroves will be restored, allowing fish populations to increase, benefiting local fishermen.

Coral Reef Restoration Efforts

Regarding coral reefs, Henkens emphasized that many reefs are dying or already dead. The project introduced two types of artificial coral reefs:

Moses Reefs – These are Lego-like



concrete blocks that can be used to build various reef structures. The project has installed 13 of these reefs, consisting of 400 blocks in total.

MARRS Reefs – These are spider-like structures built locally in Aruba. Volunteers coat them with a non-toxic adhesive and cover them with Aruban white sand before placing them in the ocean.

These artificial reefs were transported to three specific locations along Aruba's southern coast. The goal is for coral to grow on these structures and form new coral reefs.

Current Results and Future Outlook

Henkens explained that the project involves continuous monitoring of mangroves and coral reefs alongside conservation and restoration efforts. Research and monitoring are carried out by students from the University of Aruba and Wageningen University.

After one year of monitoring, it is still too early to determine the exact results. However, during a recent visit to one of the reefs, researchers observed that the corals had already doubled in size.

Despite coral bleaching events last year and the impact of Hurricane Beryl, corals at a depth of just two meters managed to survive.

"This gives us hope, but we cannot yet declare the project a success. However, we are pleasantly surprised by how well the corals are responding," Henkens emphasized.

He estimated that it would take three to five years to see significant results, assuming the coral survives.

Community Involvement and Environmental Concerns

Giancarlo Nunes, Research Conservation Manager at ACF, stressed that the project's success also depends on the Aruban community and how people behave around the coral reefs.

"It's crucial to keep our waters clean, avoid dropping anchors on coral reefs, and take measures to ensure their long-term health," he emphasized.

To help the community contribute to conservation, Henkens suggested: Taking better care of private

land to prevent erosion, as erosion is highly destructive to mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs. Ensuring higher water quality, which is essential for ecosystems to withstand climate change. Henkens also highlighted the major role of wastewater treatment plants in this issue. He specifically mentioned that Bubali Plas is an environmental disaster and that an urgent solution is needed.

He also pointed out that new hotel developments have a massive impact on the environment. Since the existing sewage treatment plants are already at full capacity, adding more hotels would put even greater strain on the system, leading to devastating consequences.

Furthermore, he stressed the importance of stopping mangrove destruction and being mindful of nature.

"Think about sustainable solutions, conduct proper environmental impact assessments before any project, and make sure Aruba's nature is taken into account," Henkens urged.

He criticized previous impact assessments for focusing only on the hotel site itself, without considering what hotel guests would do during their stay.

"Visitors will impact the environment. They will go swimming, possibly use jet skis, yet there are no regulations in place for these activities," he pointed out.

Environmental conservation and nature preservation are ongoing battles. Henkens emphasized that this should not be the case, as reckless destruction of Aruba's environment will eventually leave nothing behind. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Frisco

1 Light player

lunch 41 Passé

6 Hazard 42 Airport

11 Eat away areas

12 Kagan

of the Supreme Court

13 Distant

14 Colorful flowers, for short

15 Prepare

17 Buck's mate

18 Early hour

19 Books reviewer

22 German article

23 Claire of "Key Largo"

24 Feudal domains

25 Corn unit

27 Sixth sense, briefly

30 Layered dish

31 Early auto

32 Little rascal

33 Kicks off

35 Gold unit

38 Fuming

39 Chosen few

DOWN

1 Neptune, e.g.

2 Francis of TV

3 Riot robber

4 Commo-tions

5 Crushing, say

6 Coat rack

7 Wing part

8 Entertain at bedtime

9 Like some pools

10 Surgery tool

16 Soup containers

20 Dispiriting

21 Hosp. hookups

24 Monk's title

25 Joe's veep

26 Morale

27 Straying

28 Sofa type

29 Tough puzzles

30 Was fond of

34 Diva's piece

36 Eroded

37 Lasso on TV

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41						42				

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-3 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

SKBZB FZB EPRH SAE VBFVEPV

— ACPSBZ FPN GFVBGFRR. —

GCRR MBBLX

Cryptoquote: I STILL BELIEVE THAT LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED. I DON'T KNOW A BETTER MESSAGE THAN THAT. — PAUL MCCARTNEY

Cruise ship Schedule: February 01 - 08 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	AIDAPERLA CARNIVAL MIRACLE EXPLORER OF THE SEAS STAR PRIDE	09.00 08.00 16.30 06.00	22.00 22.00 **** 16.00	B C I G	1 1 1 1
SUN	02	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - dept.	****	18.00	I	-
MON	03	OCEANIA SIRENA RESILIENT LADY	07.00 09.00	18.00 23.00	B C	1 1
TUE	04	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE CARNIVAL HORIZON NORWEGIAN VIVA	08.00 09.00 13.00	18.00 23.00 21.00	B C I	1 1 1
WED	05	AIDABELLA CELEBRITY REFLECTION SEABOURN OVATION	10.00 10.30 07.00	22.00 21.00 19.00	B C I	1 1 1
THU	06	ROTTERDAM AIDAMAR	08.00 10.00	23.00 20.00	B C	1 1
FRI	07	MARELLA EXPLORER 2 EMERALD PRINCESS	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
SAT	08	NORWEGIAN JEWEL CORAL PRINCESS	07.00 09.00	20.00 18.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

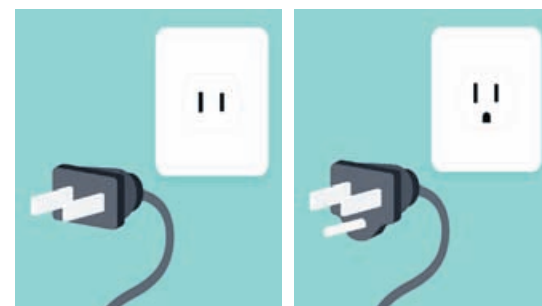
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Classifieds

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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

'Riverdance' tour celebrates its 30th anniversary with a pair of siblings leading the way

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Before they hit the stage every night, Irish siblings Anna Mai and Fergus Fitzpatrick share a special ritual: A hug and a low five.

"Like a high five, but instead of going high with it, we go lower just to be different," Fergus Fitzpatrick says laughing.

It's a sweet way to check



Siblings Fergus Fitzpatrick, left, and Anna Mai Fitzpatrick appear in costume for "Riverdance 30 The New Generation."

Associated Press

in for a brother and sister dancing duo who are propelling "Riverdance 30 The New Generation," a touring celebration of the show

that put Irish dance on the global map and has deepened their bond.

"Me and Anna Mai have grown up dancing together.

So we're like siblings, but we're also like best friends," says Fergus. "We always have that support system."

Both were veteran winners of Irish dance competitions when they joined "Riverdance" in 2017, Fergus a few weeks ahead of Anna Mai.

"That was an incredible feeling to get to share the stage and have that experience together," she says. "It's hard to describe it to another person. There's an understanding of that feeling between us."

They never knew life without 'Riverdance'

The "Riverdance" tour that kicks off this month in Florida will visit over 40 North American cities, including two weeks at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and performances at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

There also are stops scheduled for Chicago, Philadelphia, Toronto, Boston, Indianapolis and Kansas City. □

Christie Brinkley has a memoir out in April. Yes, it's called 'Uptown Girl'

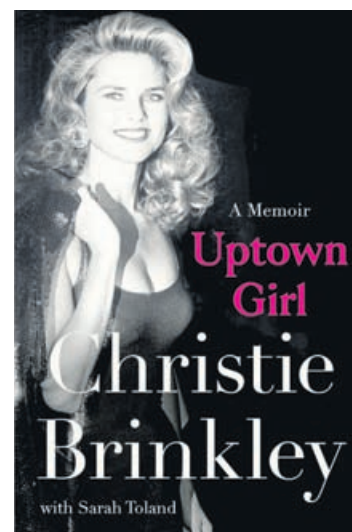
By **HILLEL ITALIE**

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Christie Brinkley will have a memoir out this spring, tracing "every adventure and twist of fate" from her rise to becoming a supermodel to her acting career to her marriage to Billy Joel.

And, yes, she's calling the book "Uptown Girl."

"I wrote 'Uptown Girl' to inspire readers to create the life they want, which is what I've always tried to do, not through fortune or fame, but by saying yes to adventure and trying to find the magic in every mo-



This cover image released by HarperCollins shows "Uptown Girl" a memoir by Christie Brinkley.

Associated Press

ment, no matter how big or how small," Brinkley said in a statement Tuesday released through Harper Influence, which will publish her book on April 29.

Brinkley, who turned 71 this week, has been a celebrity for half a century, since she was discovered in Paris by photographer Errol Sawyer. Her image has appeared

on hundreds of magazine covers, from Sports Illustrated to Vogue. She's also known for such films as "National Lampoon's Vacation," her turn on Broadway as Roxie Hart in "Chicago," and her cameo in the 1983 video of Joel's "Uptown Girl," a top 10 hit widely associated with her. (Joel has cited Brinkley and fellow supermodel Elle McPherson as inspirations.) Brinkley has been married four times, most recently to Peter Cook, whom she divorced in 2008. According to Harper Influence, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, she will reflect on "her whirlwind career, her four tumultuous marriages including her heartbreaking divorce from Billy Joel and the harrowing experiences (a 1994 helicopter crash) that almost cut her life short."

"In 'Uptown Girl,' she chronicles the unexpected, unexplainable ways her life has unfolded. □



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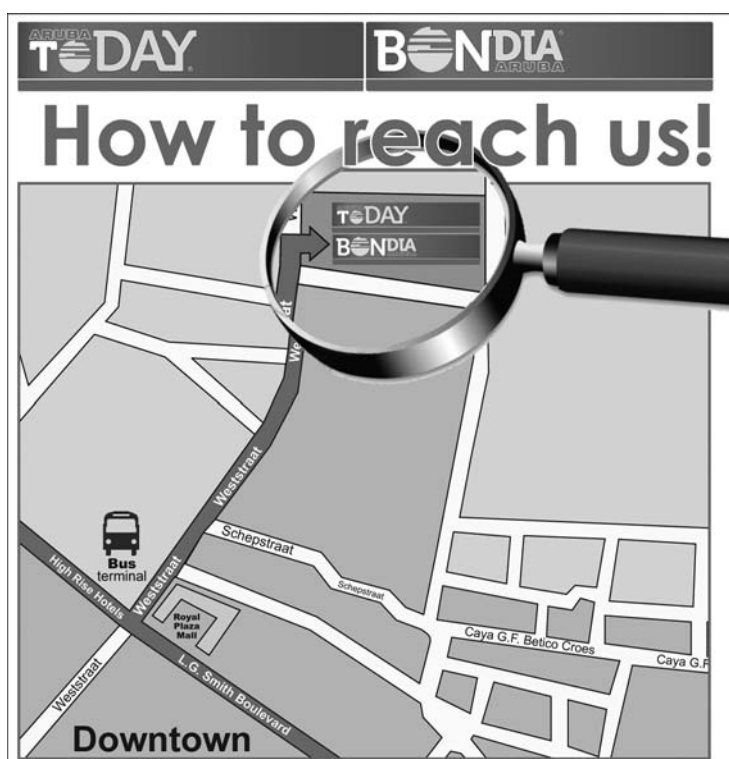
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Role players often have major impacts on Super Bowl winners

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Super Bowl matchup between Philadelphia and Kansas City isn't lacking for star power. Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce are among the most recognized players in the NFL thanks to their stellar play, numerous commercials and Kelce's pop star girlfriend, and the Chiefs have become perhaps the league's most visible franchise thanks to their recent dynastic run.

The Eagles also have been mainstays near the top of the NFL these past few seasons, with big-name players like Saquon Barkley, Jalen Hurts and A.J. Brown generating plenty of headlines.

But if history is any indication, some lesser-known players could have a big impact on the Super Bowl on Sunday. Mecole Hardman caught the winning TD pass for Kansas City in overtime in last year's win over San Francisco, and it was Kadarius Toney who had a TD catch and long punt return that proved crucial in beating



Philadelphia Eagles' Reed Blankenship (32) celebrates after recovering a fumble against the Washington Commanders during the first half of the NFC Championship NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, in Philadelphia.

the Eagles two years ago. That's been the case over the history of the Super Bowl, whether it was unheralded MVPs like Larry Brown, Dexter Jackson or Malcolm Smith; Jack Squirek's pick-6 for the Raiders in Super Bowl 18 against Washington; Timmy Smith's 204 yards rushing in his first career start for Washington against Denver

in Super Bowl 22; or David Tyree's helmet catch that helped the Giants spoil New England's bid for a perfect season in Super Bowl 42.

Here are a few players who could fill that role on Sunday: **Philadelphia DT Milton Williams**

While Jalen Carter garners much of the attention when it comes to the Eagles' de-

fensive interior, Williams has had a strong fourth season in the NFL and should have the chance to take advantage of a very favorable matchup. Williams had a career-high five sacks in the regular season and has six pressures in the first two playoff games, according to Pro Football Focus. Williams should get the

chance to line up against Kansas City's weakest offensive lineman with Mike Caliendo playing left guard after All-Pro Joe Thuney moved outside to tackle late in the season.

Kansas City DE Michael Danna

Chris Jones is the star of Kansas City's defensive line but Danna played a big role in the AFC title game against Buffalo. He had five pressures on 16 pass rushes against the Bills, according to NFL NextGen Stats, for his most productive game ever as a pass rusher.

He also forced a fumble on his one sack and may need another big game Sunday for Kansas City to slow down the Eagles.

Philadelphia RB Kenneth Gainwell

Barkley gets the focus of the opposing defenses but that could provide an opportunity for one of his backups to deliver. Gainwell had 181 yards rushing in three playoff games two years ago and had a 44-yard kickoff return in the divisional round against the Rams. □

Associated Press

Trump will attend the Super Bowl in New Orleans

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will attend the Super Bowl in New Orleans on Sunday.

Trump's trip to see the Kansas City Chiefs take on the Philadelphia Eagles was confirmed Tuesday by a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly about the president's plans and spoke on condition of anonymity.

It will be his first time attending the game as president.

Trump is also scheduled to sit for an interview with Fox News' Bret Baier as part of the network's preshow programming, which is set to be taped from Florida before the game. Presidents traditionally grant an interview to the network that's

broadcasting the football game, though both Trump and his predecessor, Joe Biden, were inconsistent about participating in previous years.

Trump, a New Yorker who now calls Florida home, has not indicated which team he's supporting, but posted congratulations to the Chiefs after their AFC Championship win last month.

"Congratulations to the Kansas City Chiefs," Trump said on his social media platform. "What a GREAT Team, Coach, Quarterback, and virtually everything else, including those fantastic FANS, that voted for me (MAGA!) in record numbers. Likewise, congratulations to the Buffalo Bills on a tremendous season.

They will do a lot of winning long into the future!!!" □



President Donald Trump speaks before signing an executive order in the Oval Office of the White House, Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press



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Luka Dončić is excited to join the Lakers after the shock of his stunning trade away from Dallas

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) —

Luka Dončić was nearly asleep last Saturday night in Dallas when his phone buzzed. Only then did he learn that the Mavericks had just stunned the sports world by trading him to the Los Angeles Lakers.

"You can imagine how surprised I was," Dončić said. "I had to check if it was April 1. I didn't really believe it."

The superstar has begun to recover after his first two days in LA, and he's growing increasingly excited about a new chapter with LeBron James and his famed new team on the sunny West Coast.

And while his past and future teammates say Dončić has never lacked motivation to be great, he has all the fuel he'll ever need after the Mavericks inherently questioned his talent and determination by making this seismic trade.

"It was a big shock," Dončić said. "(Dallas) was home, so it was really hard moments for me. ... (But now) I get to play in the greatest club in the world, and I'm excited for this new journey."

The Lakers formally welcomed Dončić on Tuesday, less than three days after they traded Anthony Davis and Max Christie in a three-team deal for the Slovenian scorer who won his first scoring title last season before leading the Mavs to the NBA Finals. Dončić is a five-time All-NBA selection and a five-time All-Star.

Stars of Dončić's age and accomplishments are almost never traded in any sport, and particularly not in such an abrupt manner. But when Dallas decided to



From left to right, Los Angeles Lakers' Markieff Morris, Luka Dončić and Maxi Kleber pose with their new jerseys during an introductory NBA basketball press conference Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, in El Segundo, Calif.

move on from its 25-year-old centerpiece, the Lakers eagerly gave up Davis one of basketball's best big men to make it happen.

Dončić is still processing the upheaval, but he already is seeing the limitless upside of a career in Los Angeles that will begin alongside the 40-year-old James, the top scorer in NBA history.

"Honestly, it was hard at first," Dončić said. "That first day was really hard. I felt like these last 48 hours was one month. Emotionally, it was really hard, but today was much better. This is the Lakers. It's one of the best clubs in history, so I'm excited to be here."

General manager Rob Pelinka didn't hide his glee at landing Dončić when they met with the media at the Lakers' training complex. In his typically florid style of discourse, Pelinka said Dončić's arrival would bring "basketball joy to the world." "We have one of the game's biggest super-

stars and an international player coming to join the Lakers," Pelinka said. "I think it's going to be something incredibly special that the NBA and basketball has never seen before."

Although James was blindsided by the deal along with the rest of the NBA, he quickly made a call to Dončić to welcome him to the Lakers. Dončić has often described James as his idol. "It's just like a dream come true," Dončić said. "I always looked up to him. There's so many things I can learn from him, and I'm just excited to learn everything and get to play with him. It's an amazing feeling."

Dončić hasn't played since Christmas because of a calf strain, but he is close to a return. He will participate in 5-on-5 work at practice Wednesday, and the Lakers will make a plan for Dončić's debut afterward. The Lakers have four games in the Los Angeles area in the next seven days, with

a road game against the Clippers on Tuesday night followed by three straight home games.

The trade caused an uproar in the sports world, leaving most Mavs fans furious including Dončić's father, Sasa, who said his son "absolutely did not deserve this."

The basketball world also was baffled by how quiet the Lakers and Mavericks kept the talks. Pelinka clearly took pride in keeping a lid on these negotiations, which began at a coffee shop with Dallas GM Nico Harrison, a longtime friend.

Some of the league's biggest names names who, like Dončić, would generally be considered untouchable in trades have reacted in complete disbelief.

"Especially with (Dallas) coming off the finals, it's a reminder that there are only a few in this league that can go to sleep with any type of confidence

that you'll still be there," Golden State guard Stephen Curry said. "It's kind of a very unique situation across the board."

Added Minnesota guard Anthony Edwards: "They traded probably the best scorer in the NBA at 25. And he didn't know about it. There's a lot more digging somebody's got to do to find out why he got traded. You don't just trade him at 25. He just went to the finals. I feel bad for Luka, man."

The Lakers also acquired Maxi Kleber and Markieff Morris in the trade with Dallas. Both praised Dončić's work ethic and leadership and both laughed at the widespread notion the Mavs were irredeemably concerned about Dončić's conditioning and work ethic. "I hear the stuff about him not being in shape, but if you can go in an NBA game and get 30 and 15 and 10 like it's nothing, then I don't really know what shape is," Morris said. "You're gonna see it really soon. You'll make the (determination) if he's in shape or not."

Morris returns to the Lakers after winning a championship ring with the team in the Florida "bubble" in 2020. He said the Mavs informed him he had been traded Saturday night, but not where he was going he learned that on television and social media.

Kleber is on crutches after having surgery on his broken right foot. The German veteran best known in LA for hitting a particularly spectacular 3-pointer at the buzzer to beat the Lakers in March 2023 says he will be re-evaluated in eight weeks, hopefully allowing him to return around the postseason. □